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REGULATORY AUTH.  
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

October 7, 1999

Mr. K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243 - 0505

RE: Petition of NEXTLINK Tennessee, Inc. for Arbitration of Interconnection  
with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
Docket No. 98-00123

Dear Mr. Waddell:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Authority of the progress NEXTLINK and BellSouth have made toward finalizing their interconnection agreement so that it may be filed with the Authority for approval pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252(e). Further, NEXTLINK and BellSouth respectfully request that the Authority grant the parties an extension of time until November 1, 1999, to complete negotiations and file the executed agreement with the Authority.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1999, NEXTLINK and BellSouth appeared before the Authority to discuss NEXTLINK's Petition for Reconsideration. During that appearance, the Authority directed the parties to negotiate an agreement which included provisions regarding combinations of unbundled network elements consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in AT&T v. Iowa Utilities Board et.al. and to file a completed agreement within 30 days or October 14, 1999. However, in answer to a question from Mrs. Shaffer regarding whether the parties could request more time, Chairman Malone stated, "I'm not going to try to hash out each and every scenario that could possibly appear in 30 days. Certainly, if the parties remain in serious good-faith negotiations and both parties think that they are making some movement, then the parties can simply request of the Authority additional time to file the interconnection agreement."

Since September 14, 1999, the parties have negotiated in good faith and have exchanged numerous proposals regarding the open issues in the interconnection

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agreement. The parties have indeed closed a large number of issues. However, due to the impending release of the FCC's 319 Remand Order and the effect that the FCC's Order could have on the few remaining issues, the Parties respectfully request that the Authority grant an extension of time to file the final interconnection agreement. The Parties request that the deadline now be set for November 1, 1999.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.



Guy M. Hicks

NEXTLINK



Dana Shaffer

by GAW/permission

GMH:ch

cc: Dana Shaffer